

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08712 290755Z

13  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 033347  
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8836

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8712

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, US, IR, UR  
SUBJ/ SHAH ON ASSASSINATION OF AMERICANS

REF: (A) TEHRAN 6934, (B) TEHRAN 8487

1. MINISTER OF COURT ALAM ASKED ME TO SEE HIM AFTERNOON  
AUGUST 28 TO CONVEY MESSAGE FROM THE SHAH INDUCED BY ASSASSINA-  
TION EARLY THAT MORNING OF THREE AMERICAN CIVILIANS WORKING  
HERE FOR ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL.

2. ALAM HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY: THE SHAH IS NOT ONLY  
CONCERNED BUT IN FACT WORRIED THAT THIS ACT OF ASSASSINATION  
IS PART OF A COMMUNIST PLOT TO DRIVE IRAN AND THE UNITED  
STATES APART AND AT THE SAME TIME TO COUNTER THE IRANIAN  
DEFENSE BUILDUP WHICH APPARENTLY CONCERNS THE SOVIETS (CF.  
REF B). THE SHAH NOTED THE QUESTIONING HE GOT FROM AMERICAN  
NEWSPAPER CORRESPONDENTS AT NOWSHAHR ON AUGUST 6 ABOUT THE  
POSSIBILITY OF AMERICANS IN IRAN BECOMING "HOSTAGES".  
(THE NEWSPAPERMEN PICKED THIS WORD UP FROM THE STAFF  
REPORT TO SFRC SUBCOMMITTEE ENTITLED "US MILITARY SALES  
TO IRAN" WHERE THE SENTENCE APPEARS, "HOWEVER, IF, IN  
EXTREMIS, THERE WERE A CRISIS, UNITED STATES PERSONNEL IN  
IRAN COULD BECOME, IN A SENSE, HOSTAGES.") THE SHAH FEELS  
THAT THE KILLING OF AMERICANS YESTERDAY MAY HAVE BEEN  
TRIGGERED OFF BY THE PUBLICITY THIS WORD "HOSTAGES" RECEIVED  
SINCE THE ACTION WOULD GIVE QUICK EVIDENCE THAT AMERICANS  
IN IRAN ARE INDEED "HOSTAGES" AND THAT THEY ARE IN DANGER OF

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THEIR LIVES WHILE SERVING HERE. HE CONTENTS THAT SAVAK

PREDICTED THAT "SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN" WHEN THE "HOSTAGES" CONCEPT WAS GIVEN WIDE PUBLICITY. THE SHKW HAS NO DOUBT THAT THE ASSASSINATION WILL HAVE ITS INFLUENCE ON US PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION. HE ALSO SEES THE KILLING AS PART OF AN ORCHESTRATION BY THE COMMUNISTS (READ SOVIET UNION) IN CONJUNCTION WITH IRANIAN STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AT US UNIVERSITIES. THESE STUDENTS ARE SEEN AS "POISONING PUBLIC OPINION" AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN. IN SUM, THERE IS GENUINE CONCERN HERE THAT THE LEFTISITS, INCLUDING THOSE IN THE FREE WORLD PRESS, HAVE TAKEN DEAD AIM AT US-IRANINA RELATIONS AND WILL DO THEIR BEST TO UPSET THEM.

3. COMMENT: WHETHER OR NOT THE SHAH'S ANALYSIS IN THIS CASE IS ACCURATE OR OVERDRAWN, THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO DOUBT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE CONCENTRATING A CAMPAIGN AT ALL LEVELS, PUBLIC, DIPLOMATIC, AND CLANDESTINE, AGAINST IRAN'S MILITARY BUILDUP AND THE USG'S CONTRIBUTION TO IT. THE PUBLIC AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS ARE WELL KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE CLANDESTINE COMPETENCE CAN BE SEEN IN SUCH THINGS AS THE PROFESSIONALISM OF THE TERRORISTS OPERATING IN IRAN AND IN THE SOPHISTICATION OF IRANIAN STUDENTS STUDYING ABORAD WHO ARE ABLE TO MOUNT AN ATTACK ON THE IRANIAN CONSULATE IN GENEVA AND KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND THE SECRET DOCUMENTS THEY WANT. IT CAN BE SAFELY PREDICTED THAT WE WILL SEE CONTINUATION OF THIS EFFORT ALONG SIMILAR LINES.

HELMS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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